

ADAC Talking Points
Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Stakeholder Public Comment
Loudoun County Planning Commission
May 20, 2009

The Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC) was established by County ordinance under State enabling legislation for the purpose of providing expert advice to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission as to the nature of farming and forestry and agricultural and forestal resources within Agricultural and Forestal Districts and their relation to the county.

As a stakeholder group the ADAC has not yet taken a position on implementation of the Act. Nevertheless, we agree that:

- The ADAC applauds the Board of Supervisors' and the Planning Commission's proactive work toward the implementation of water quality protection in Loudoun County. As farmers and stewards of the land we recognize the importance of water quality in maintaining a sustainable agricultural economy.
- The ADAC wishes to express concerns regarding the staffing and funding needed to carry out implementation and administration of the Preservation Act. Two of the Loudoun-based positions that will be tasked with work related to the Act are funded by state grants that might end in June 2010.
- Farmers and rural business owners are facing higher costs for feed, seed, fuel and other inputs. The ADAC is concerned that either establishing or maintaining the required buffer areas and implementing the Best Management Practices will force farmers to incur added costs in a difficult economic climate. The ADAC would like ensure sufficient cost share opportunities are available to mitigate the added expenses.
- Finally, the ADAC will meet again after hearing the input of the other stakeholder groups to continue the dialogue and help find common ground to ensure Loudoun's water quality will be a treasure for all future generations to enjoy.